

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 5-10 stand finally rejected under either 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) or 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Welker (U.S. Patent 5,578,770) alone, or in combination with Geiger (U.S. Patent 4,730,789) and/or Kluth (U.S. Patent 5,582,064). Claims 11-15 and 19-21 are indicated as being allowed. In response to the Official Action, applicant has requested that the Amendment After Final Rejection be entered for the express purpose of canceling claims 5-10.

CONCLUSION

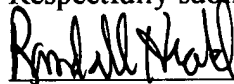
Claims 11-15 and 19-21 remain the present application. In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the remaining claims are in condition for allowance and requests the Amendment After Final Rejection be entered and that a Notice of Allowability be issued for the remaining claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives at direct dial (321) 867-7214 if there are any questions regarding this Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

It is further requested that a one month's extension of time be granted and that the required fee be charged to DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 14-0116.

Date: May 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Randall M. Heald

Patent Counsel, Kennedy Space Center

Reg. No. 28,561